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Statement by His Excellency Mr. Md. Abdul Hannan,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh
Geneva, 24 September 2013

Madam President,
Director General Mr. Francis Gurry,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the beginning we align ourselves with the statements made by India on behalf of Asia Pacific Group and Benin on behalf of LDC Group. I take this opportunity to congratulate you Madam President on your election as the President of 51st Session of WIPO Assemblies along with other Vice Chairs. We believe your leadership will help us reaching a successful conclusion of this 51st Session. I also remember the contribution of H.E. Ambassador Uglješa Ugi ZVEKIĆ, the outgoing President of the last GA and the previous Vice Chairs.

Let me extend our appreciation also to the Director General for his insightful report and the way he has been leading WIPO in fulfilling its mandate. We also thank the Secretariat for the efforts that went into the preparation of these series of meetings.

Madam President,

Although the 'Report of the Director General to the WIPO Assemblies 2013' shows that in spite of economic woes of post-2008 financial crisis, the intellectual property grew considerably, this growth was not uniform in all parts of the world. The developing countries and especially LDCs could not benefit true to their potentials. To mainstream the benefits of IP in all Member States, the IP system must have a balance between the rights and the responsibilities and establish the importance of innovation and creativity for social, economic, cultural and technological transformation in the LDCs.

Madam President,

We are happy to see that the combined efforts of the LDCs and WIPO are trying to surmount the prevalent knowledge gap or the digital divide. As the

outcome of LDC IV Conference, WIPO and more specifically, the Director General took certain steps to build the knowledge base in the LDCs and started assisting the LDCs to implement them step by step. To implement the first two deliverables, WIPO has started providing assistance to the LDCs to formulate IP and innovation policy and strategy. And to enhance technical skill, a number of national, regional and inter-regional activities were adopted and accomplished. Actions on branding and promoting and making available the appropriate technology are other areas where substantive developments could be noticed. WIPO introduced a number of plans for the benefit of the LDCs so that important scientific and technical information is available to them free of cost. WIPO is helping the LDCs to formulate respective IP and innovation policies and strategies, training their human resources and assisting to set up TISCs. Promoting indigenous branding is another area which is extremely important for LDCs and we thank WIPO for their endeavor to assist the LDCs on this important issue. Protecting native resources, culture, knowledge and traditions are very important and WIPO is working extensively in the LDCs on this.

Madam President,

We would like to express our deep appreciation to the Director General and his team for their active engagements with various projects initiated by different 'Development Agenda' recommendations. In this connection, we ask all to reach an understanding implementing the 'coordination mechanism' by agreeing to a permanent functional modality as agreed in the CDIP. We also hope that the definition of the 'Development Expenditure' would be agreed to by all soon.

Madam President,

We are happy that under the auspices of WIPO and at the initiative of DG, the 'Beijing Treaty for the Protection of Audiovisual Performances' has been adopted followed by another epoch-making " Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or otherwise Print Disabled". Since Russia is ready to host the Diplomatic Conference on Design Law Treaty, the DG could initiate the process of preparation in this matter based on consensus. Regarding GRTKF, we consider it's extremely important. We recommend that the mandate of IGC may be extended as required in a meaningful manner so that the proposed Diplomatic Conference for GRTKF could also be convened in the near future.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are happy to see that WIPO has started the process of opening external offices in different parts of the world and we welcome the decision to open 5 offices at the first stage. However we see that this will be an ongoing process and hope that facilitating development and innovation and strengthening IP would be the prime considerations for new offices.

I thank you all for your kind attention.